

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating chronic spinal mechanical pain which comprises intravenously administering to a subject in need of chronic spinal mechanical pain relief an effective amount for relieving chronic spinal mechanical pain of a bisphosphonate, wherein the bisphosphonate provides prolonged pain relief; the chronic spinal mechanical pain is relieved for at least three months following the ~~most-recent~~ administration of the bisphosphonate, and the bisphosphonate is pamidronate or zoledronic acid.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount is administered in more than one dose.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 which comprises administering said bisphosphonate by intravenous injection.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic spinal mechanical pain is of non-osteoporotic compression fracture origin.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a mammal.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the mammal is a human.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of bisphosphonate other than zoledronic acid ranges from about 0.5 to about 5.4 mg/kg of body weight.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the bisphosphonate is pamidronate.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the bisphosphonate is zoledronic acid.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, which comprises administering the effective amount in a single dose.